

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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O 122113Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET, UR

SUBJECT: SECURITY ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: MOGADISCIO 501

1. DEPARTMENT WAS MORE THAN USUALLY PERPLEXED BY THE ATTITUDE REFLECTED BY SIAD BARRE IN REFTEL CONCERNING STATIONING OF OBSERVERS IN THE OGADEN, UN ACTION AND EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A CEASE-FIRE SO THAT SOMALI FORCES COULD BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. IN AN EFFORT TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS TO SIAD WE HAVE BEEN PREPARING A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION TO IMPLEMENT A CEASE-FIRE AND TO PROVIDE FOR OBSERVERS. WE ARE ALREADY RUNNING INTO AFRICAN RESISTANCE TO UPSTAGING THE OAU. IF SOMALIA, AS WELL AS ETHIOPIA, OPPOSES SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, THE PROSPECTS FOR INSCRIPTION OF THE ITEM WOULD BE DIM INDEED.

2. WE NEED YOUR BEST ESTIMATE AS TO WHETHER ATTITUDES REFLECTED BY SIAD IN REFTEL INDICATE A GENUINE LACK OF CONCERN OVER THE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SITUATION, OR WHETHER THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A BY-PRODUCT OF SIAD'S FRUSTRATION. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY APPROACH HIM AGAIN TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS. WE SEE NO PRACTICAL

ALTERNATIVE TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION AS A MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THE GOALS WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO. ALSO, SECURITY ACTION COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR UN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE OGADEN.

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3. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON WHETHER SIAD'S RELAXED ATTITUDE IN FACT REPRESENTS A REALISTIC VIEW OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. AS INDICATED IN STATE 63461, OUR OWN FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS A DANGER THAT WITHDRAWING SOMALI TROOPS MAY BE INTERDICTED. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO CONFIRM SIAD'S CONTENTION THAT HIS UNITS ARE WITHDRAWING INTACT AND WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY?

4. FOR ADDIS AND DJIBOUTI: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ON THE EXTENT OF FIGHTING WHICH CONTINUES AND THE DANGERS WHICH MAY BE FACED BY DEPARTING SOMALI TROOPS AND INDIGENOUS POPULATION. ALSO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT REFUGEE MOVEMENT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:FEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-1288
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacnta.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac5e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MOGADISCIO 501
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3358093
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY ACTION ON THE HORN
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SO, ET, UR
To: MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac5e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014